

REMARKS

The Examiner's recognition of Applicants' invention by the allowance of claims 26-29 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 30 and 31 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 8, now cancelled, for which allowable subject matter was indicated. Claim 30 is amended to be dependent upon claim 1.

Claim 10 is amended to recite that Applicants' method comprises introducing exhaust gas into an exhaust system that includes a plurality of treatment devices and a plurality of gas sensors disposed in fluid communication with said plurality of treatment devices. The amendments more particularly set out that the exhaust system in accordance with the claim includes first, second and third treatment devices, a first gas sensor disposed before said first treatment device, a second gas sensor disposed between said second treatment device and said third treatment device, and a third gas sensor disposed after said third treatment device, features taught throughout the specification and depicted, for example, in Figs. 1 and 2, and recited in claims 8 and 26, indicated as allowable. Claim 10 is further amended to recite that the measuring step includes measuring a first response time differential between said first gas sensor and said second gas sensor, and a second response time between said first gas sensor and said third gas sensor, as described at paragraphs 34 through 36. Still further, claim 10 is amended to recite that the desulfating step is carried out based upon said first response time and said second response time, as described at paragraph 37.

It is respectfully requested that the amendments to claim 10 be entered. The amendments incorporate limitations indicated as allowable subject matter in claims 8 and 26, and so introduce no new issues into the case.

Claims Rejection

Claims 10-16 stand rejection based upon United States Patent Number 5,974,788, issued to Hepburn et al. in 1999, in view of United States Patent Number 5,461,857, issued to Itou et al. in 1995.

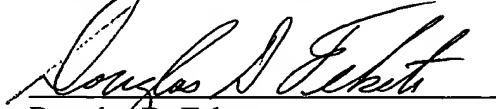
Claim 10 is directed to Applicants' method and is amended herein to point out that the method comprises introducing an exhaust gas stream into an exhaust system that includes treatment devices and gas sensors. More particularly, the system comprises first, second and third treatment devices, a first sensor before the first device, a second sensor between the second and third device, and a third sensor after the third device. As recognized by the indication of allowability of claims 8 and 26, neither Hepburn et al. nor Itou et al. teach or suggest an exhaust system having this arrangement. Moreover, the claim is amended to call out that the method includes measuring a first response time and second response time, and using these to form the basis of desulfating, further features not shown in the references. Therefore, Hepburn et al. and Itou et al. do not teach or suggest Applicants' method as set forth in claim 10, or in claims 11-16 dependent thereon.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered, the rejection of claims 10-16 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas D. Fekete", is written over a horizontal line.

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